How does public participation work?

In each transmission line study area, Hydro project teams provide information on the project and hold meetings to obtain the views of the public and special interest groups. At the same time, a comprehensive inventory of the area is compiled including information about topography, geology, soils, surface water, vegetation, woodlands, and existing and future land uses. Municipal officials, interested groups and individuals are interviewed to determine the importance of environmental factors. From all this information, several alternative corridors are identified.

Throughout the entire process, citizens are kept informed of progress through public meetings and news media. Finally, the most acceptable corridor is identified within which a specific transmission line can be located.

Because of construction forces on the job, the location of new power stations has a more direct economic impact on surrounding communities and a different set of factors has to be studied. However, the basic principles of community planning are the same. Both new plant sites and line routes, of course, are subject to formal approval by government authorities and agencies.

Hydro projects mainly affect the residents of smaller communities and rural areas. But since new facilities are built in response to the electrical needs of all the people of Ontario, everybody has a contribution to make. City dwellers have a concern and responsibility for the environment as well. The success of open planning depends upon a high degree of public participation—not only by those directly affected by the routing of a new line or construction of a new power station. The interests of everyone should be represented. If you can't participate directly in planning meetings but wish to be kept informed of progress in planning these new facilities or want to contribute your own views, write to:

Community Relations Dept.
12th Floor
Ontario Hydro
620 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1X6

Remember, new Hydro facilities are being built to serve **your** needs, no matter where you live in Ontario.

ontario hydro

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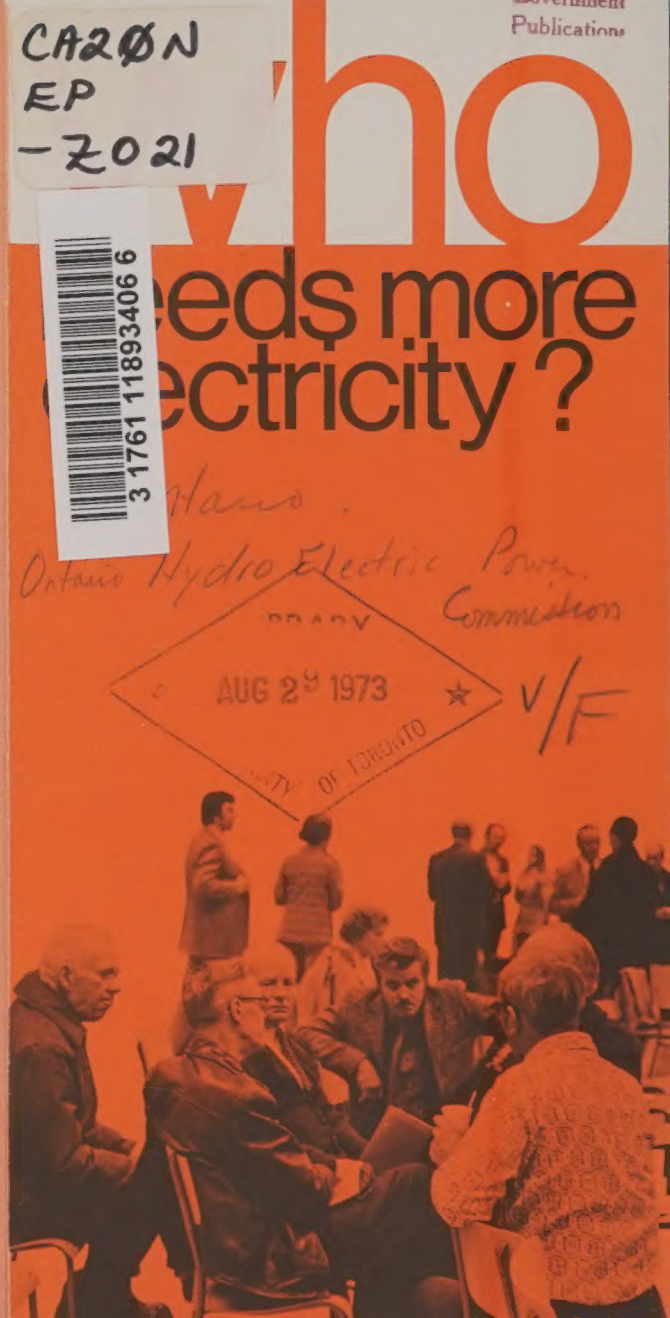
Who needs more electricity?



Who needs more electricity?

First of all, there are more people in Ontario each year who need it. Population growth means more houses, apartments, cottages, stores and factories—all requiring electrical service.

In addition, electricity is being used in more and more ways. Industry uses more of it, often in association with new equipment to reduce pollution. Municipal agencies use more of it for such things as sewage treatment. Business uses more of it for computers, typewriters and a great variety of other labor-saving office equipment. Farmers use more of it to expand food production.

Homeowners use more of it, too, not only for such major essentials as cooking, water heating and refrigeration but for other purposes as well: a new stereo set in the recreation room, a color TV, electric hedge trimmers. All these things mean more intensive consumption of electricity.

At the same time, a growing number of people are becoming concerned about conserving energy. This concern is reflected by Ontario Hydro, which is stressing the wise and thoughtful use of all energy resources, but it makes the forecasting of future power demands difficult. However, between now and 1982, at least, demand is expected to increase each year by about seven per cent.

How do we get more power?

More electricity means more generating stations and the Ontario government has given approval in principle to a $3.5 billion-plus plan to expand Hydro's power facilities.

The program will provide more than 10 million kilowatts of new generating capacity by the mid-1980's. Nearly 80 per cent of this will be nuclear. The Pickering power station, near Toronto, and Bruce on Lake Huron—both nuclear—will be doubled in capacity. A new oil-fired station will be built at Port Hope and another nuclear installation at Bowmanville.

More power will be provided for Northwestern Ontario either by purchasing electricity from Manitoba or by adding generating units at the Thunder Bay coal-fired station.

To ensure supplies of heavy water for the CANDU reactors in its nuclear plants, Hydro will also enlarge production facilities for this essential element in its expansion program. New transmission lines and rights-of-way will also be needed to deliver this additional electricity from the power stations to the consumer.

What about the environment?

The new generating units that will deliver their output into Ontario's integrated power system will be planned, designed and built in a way to keep their environmental effects at an acceptable level. In announcing Hydro's plans to the Ontario Legislature, Premier William Davis said such programs will be reviewed by the Ontario Energy Board. However, to permit detailed planning of urgently-needed facilities to proceed, the government was giving approval in principle. Each project must still obtain the approval of various municipal, provincial, and—in the case of nuclear units—federal authorities and agencies.

Beyond the formal channels of approval established for reviewing new generating stations and transmission line rights-of-way, Hydro has its own program of community planning permitting local authorities, organized groups and individuals to participate in the selection of station sites and transmission line routes.

Experience with open planning is already being gained. Three study areas have been established for the routes of proposed new transmission lines to serve generating stations now under construction. The first study area is between Kingston and Oshawa, the second lies between Bruce generating station on Lake Huron and the Georgetown area, and the third extends from Nanticoke on Lake Erie to the vicinity of London. Many similar studies are under way or planned where power facilities are being expanded.